

TRANSFER DEVICE FOR INFORMATION CARRIERS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to transfer devices ensuring the loading/unloading of information carriers in/from record and/or playback apparatuses and particularly to such devices for information carriers of a substantially circular periphery such as optical, magnetic discs, CD, DVD. The present invention relates more particularly to transfer devices for those information carriers appearing in two configurations different in size and/or thickness as, for instance, bare discs and discs housed in protective cartridges such as the one disclosed in USP 6,377,538, which is assigned to the same assignee as the present invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Transfer devices have been developed for information carriers of different configurations. For example, the transfer devices disclosed in USP 5,867,338 and EPA 1.087.388 ensure the loading of bare discs and cartridges holding discs. However, these devices involve either elements selected by the user himself before he inserts the carrier (USP 5,867,338) or a loading mechanism adapted to each type of carrier (EPA 1.087.388), for instance one loading mechanism for bare discs and another loading mechanism for discs housed in cartridges. Such devices are thus complex, expensive and require a lot of space.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The aim of the present invention is to overcome the above-mentioned drawbacks by providing a single, simple, low cost, reliable, compact device that ensures the transfer of information carriers having substantially the same profile, but having configurations different in size and/or thickness, by adapting, during said transfer, simultaneously and automatically the driving and clamping mechanisms of the apparatus to the inserted information carrier.

[0004] A further aim of the invention is to utilize, by controlling them differently, mechanisms already provided in transfer devices to limit the increase of parts, the additional cost, the overall height and the required space.

[0005] Another aim of the invention is to avoid requiring any specific manipulation/selection by the user before he inserts a carrier into the apparatus.

[0006] Further characteristics, advantages, particularities of the invention will appear from the preferred embodiment, hereafter described in a non-limiting way and to which further improvements, modifications can be brought without departing from the scope of the invention, in conjunction with the drawings for which:

Noted
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